





Bequest of
Rev. H. C. Scadding, D.D.
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BEQUEST OF
REV. CANON SCADDING, D. D.
TORONTO, 1901.

God's Judgment

AGAINST

False Swearing.

GIVING

An account of one Mr. Richards and his Wife of the Town of Horsham in Suffex, charging his Maid with carring off from his house several Things of great Value, for which she was apprehended and committed to Goal; and at the assizes one Ann Thomas swore against her, and said, she saw her carty away the above Things; for which she had Sentence of Death passed upon her.

LIKEWISE,

An account how the Things were found just as she was going to be executed, which procured her a Pardon.

ALSO,

An account of the perjured person's dying soon after in a miserable Manner.



God's Judgment

Against False Swearing.



In the pleasant town of Horsham, in the country of Suffex, lived one Mr. John Richards, a great merchant and shopkeeper, who sold all sorts of velvets, silks, and sattins, gold and silver lace of all sorts, and the very best goods that could be sold by any shopkeeper in England. This merchant had a maid, whose name was Jane Smith, with whom he entrusted

the above goods, and whom he always kept in his shop to serve his customers, and bound her to be just and honest in her service, and she had lived with him several years. At length her master missed two pieces of gold lace, and soon after several pieces of ribbon, which he charged his maid with, and said he believed she had given them to one William Baker, of Hortham; who came a courting to her; and to make up the matter as easy as he could, told her he expected she should pay for them, otherwise he would send her to gaol; but the poor innocent creature knew nothing of what became of the goods.

On the 6th of March last, her mistress sent for one Ann Thomas, a kinswoman, and told her she should live with them, and likewise desired her to have a watchful eye over the shop maid, for they had lately lost several things of value, and did imagine she had them. Ann Thomas said, I shall find her out, and will surely acquaint you with it.

About two days after her mistress came into the shop, and said to the maid, get me a basin of water to wash my hands, and while she was going for the water, her mistress took off her fine diamond ring from her finger, and laid it upon the counter. As soon as the water was brought to her she washed her hands, and then went into the house, having forgot to take up her diamond ring.

She looh after missing it, came immediately into the shop to look for it, but found it was gone. Jane Smith being then in the shop, she asked whether she had taken it up? She assured her she had not seen it since she saw it on her finger in the morning.



Her mistress said, it could not be gone without hands, and therefore told her plainly she must have it, and all the other things that were missing out of the shop, and said, If you do not go and fetch it, I will send for a constable, and have you before a Justice, and get you committed to the country gaol.

The poor girl said, indeed, I have not seen it, nor do I know what is become of it,

Ann Thomas said, You are a thieving hussey, you have the ring, and I swear I saw you take it up from the counter, but do not know where you put it. Her mistress immediately sent for a constable, and had her carried before a Justice of the Peace, where Ann Thomas swore that she saw her take it up; upon which the Justice immediately committed her to Horsham gaol.

At the assizes, her trial came on, when her mistress swore that she had lost the before mentioned goods out of the shop, and Ann Thomas likewise swore, that Jane Smith carried them off, upon which the jury brought her in guilty, and she accordingly received sentence of death for the same.

While she lay in gaol under sentence of death, she behaved in a very penitent manner, and was visited by the Reverend Mr. Leaman, who desired her to make a confession of her sins, and in particular of that she was going to die for: She told him she was innocent as the child unborn.

The day before she was to be executed, one Thomas Pew, a neighbour, who lived opposite Mr. Richards's house, saw a raven, which Mr. Richards kept, and used often to be in the shop, with a piece of red ribbon in his mouth, whereupon he watched the raven, and saw him fly to the abbey church with it, and there behind a large image, he saw him go into the hole in the

wall, and leaving it there, returned back again; upon which the said Mr. Pew told Mr. Richards he had found out the thief, and that he was then in the shop.



Mr. Richards immediately replied, why then do you think my kinswoman would take a false oath? Mr. Pew replied, I think she has sworn falsely against your servant's life, for there sits the thief, pointing to the raven, whom I saw this morning come out of your shop with a piece of ribbon, when he flew with it to the abbey church where in a hole behind the image that stands out in the front of the church, he left it.

Then Mr. Richards, Mr. Pew, and several other persons, went upon the top of the church, and by the help of ropes, they let down a man in a basket behind the image, who found several

pieces of gold and silver lace, two silver spoon the diamond ring, and a great many pieces of ribbon, &c. to the value of above seventy pound. Within half an hour after this was found out the Sheriff, with his officers, came for to demand the body of Jane Smith, in order for her execution, and seeing a great number of people assembled together, asked them the cause of it? When Mr. Pew immediately acquainted him that all the things which Mr. Richards had lost were found in a hole in the abbey wall, and a raven belonging to Mr. Richards had carried them there. The Sheriff told the gentlemen he had warrant for her execution, and shewed it the he was obliged forthwith to order her to the place of execution; and accordingly she was conducted by proper officers to the gallows, and before her went thirty young men, singing the lamentation of a sinner.

After prayers were ended, she was ordered by the Sheriff to mount the ladder, when she was again asked by the clergyman, if she was guilty of the crime for which she was going to suffer? She answered, she was as innocent as the child unborn.

There were abundance of tears shed at the gallows, and as she was at prayers on the ladder, with the rope fixed about her neck, and she stood trembling, to her great surprise she was ordered by the Sheriff to dismount the ladder, telling her

that he hoped to get her a reprieve; at which she fainted away. She was brought back to prison, and let blood immediately, and in eight days after came down a free pardon for her.

Her master was ordered to pay her ten pounds a year during life, and Ann Thomas, that swore so falsely again her, was found dead on a dung-hill two days after, whose death it is hoped will be an example to false swearers.

THE END.







